
THE
PRINCESS OF ZELL.
IN TWO VOLUMES.

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MEMOIRS
OF THE
PRINCESS OF ZELL,

CONSORT TO
KING GEORGE THE FIRST.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

----- " 'Tis better to be lowly born,
And range with humble livers in content,
Than to be perk'd up in a glitt'ring grief,
And wear a golden sorrow."

SHAKSPEARE'S HENRY VIII.

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THE
PRINCESS OF ZELL.

THE Parliament was shocked at such a proposition ; and, except the Partizans of the faction, who were few in number, all the deputies rejected it as criminal ; but Cromwell, having brought troops into the capital, where the Parliament were assembled, placed himself at the head of them, whilst, by a detachment from his army,

he took away the King, and caused him to be conducted, as a prisoner, to one of his palaces, which was nearest the metropolis.

Charles suffered this new disgrace with a courage that astonished his enemies.—The Parliament published a declaration, by which they professed themselves satisfied with his conduct; but this step could not save him from the most melancholy catastrophe, that ever happened; the chief of the rebels turned all those out of the Parliament who opposed him, and replaced them with his own creatures.

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He appointed commissioners to judge the King, who was obliged to appear before them:—He, with constancy, refused to answer to their accusations; but that did not prevent these villains from condemning him to lose his head.

So unheard of a sentence inspired all nations with horror; several English noblemen offered their heads to save that of the King:—Almost every Sovereign in Europe solicited the tyrant, and threatened him with their indignation.

The Scots, shocked at the idea of regicide, protested against the decree; but all this could not move or intimi-

date him ; the fatal sentence was executed, and the King suffered death with astonishing fortitude and intrepidity.

His eldest son, who had taken refuge in France, took the title of King, by the name of Charles the Second, as soon as he knew the melancholy end of his father.

Cromwell, having made himself master of the government, Charles dared not visit England.—It was not till some time after, that the Scots, the authors of the mischief (by having given up Charles the First) willing to repair the fault, called over the Prince,
and

and crowned him, but under such limited condition, as deprived him of all authority.

Charles was soon weary of being King without the power ; he attached himself to the Highlanders, who promised him their assistance towards recovering his rights, provided he would place himself at their head.—This Prince consented to it, and made his escape, under pretence of going a hunting.—He at first retired to the house of a nobleman, one of his faithful Partizans, where he remained concealed till he could be well informed of the true sentiments and strength of those who invited him.

His invasion gave a great deal of uneasiness to those of the government; they took every method of discovering where he was; and having found out his place of concealment, they dispatched one of their party to invite him over, promising a change of conduct, and to give him the power he wished for.

Charles yielded to their persuasions, and, in reality, had reason to be satisfied.—There is a probability that they would have assisted him in settling his affairs in England, if the tyrant, who put his father to death, had been less vigilant, less enterprising, and less fortunate.

But

But this man, who had been detained a long time in England, by a fit of sickness, was no sooner recovered, than he assembled his army, and marched against Charles, who came to meet him at the head of the Scots.

The animosities of the two parties, and the desire of conquest being equal, they soon came to an engagement, and a single battle decided their fortune.— The King was entirely defeated, and had no hope left but that inspired by confidence in God.

This unfortunate Prince had much difficulty in finding a retreat, where he might take some repose, and devise

means of escaping out of the kingdom, in which he could not remain, but at the peril of his life.

A peasant, who met him, recollecting him, offered him an asylum, from the fury of his enemies;—and this Prince, who was born to rule a kingdom, was reduced to be obliged; by a rustic, who taught him, that virtue is to be found in all situations.—This peasant immediately cut his hair, and gave him a mean suit of clothes, and led him to a forest, where he shewed him a tree, in which was a hollow large enough to conceal him, and a companion of his flight.—He there passed several days, without any other food but

But milk and cheese, which this faithful peasant sent him by an old woman.

Charles, having remained five or six days in this melancholy asylum, wished to get nearer to the sea, in order that he might embark for France; and recollecting that a gentleman was attached to him, who lived a few miles distant, he resolved to go thither, and to trust his fate to him.—He travelled there on foot; the trusty peasant served him as a guide, and acquitted himself with the greatest prudence, as he understood how to avoid the guards, which Cromwell had placed at different distances, to intercept the King.

The

The Prince, however, arrived safe at this gentleman's house, and was there received with every mark of the sincerest fidelity.—He concealed him immediately, with the utmost care; and this precaution was the more necessary, as, in a short time after Charles was in safety, there came soldiers from the tyrant to seek for him.

The composure with which this gentleman opened the door to them, and permitted them to search the house, deceived those emissaries, and saved the King.

The next day the gentleman sent the King away towards the sea, recommending

ending him to another gentleman, one of his particular friends.—Charles was disguised as a footman, and had his friend's daughter behind him on a pillion, and another woman and a footman followed.

This was three days journey, during which time, Charles had need of all his presence of mind.—His horse dropped his shoe on the road; he went himself to the farrier, to have it put on, wishing to maintain the character he had adopted.

As the blacksmith held the horse's foot, he asked him if he could tell if the King was taken.—“I wish,” con-

tinued he, "I knew where he was, that I might get the reward offered by Parliament."

Charles, without betraying any emotion, answered, "that he did not know any thing of him, but should like the reward himself;" and he has since told me, in Holland (where I met him) in relating his adventures, that never any discourse had appeared to him so long or so tiresome, and that he never mounted so lightly on his horse as after it was shod. * * *

As he continued his road, he saw bonfires every where, and heard the bells ring, in token of rejoicing, at a
report

report which had prevailed of his death.—This idea would have served to facilitate his escape out of England, if it had not been destroyed as soon as it had birth.

Being arrived at the house of his new host, he was received with as much zeal as he had experienced from the former.

This gentleman employed a merchant to procure a vessel, as he said, for an officer of the King's party, who wanted to go over to France.

The day before Charles was to embark, the Captain recollected him, and reproached

reproached the merchant who had hired him, for having deceived him, and the danger to which he had exposed him, in requiring him to take over the King; the Parliament, or rather Cromwell, having forbid him, on pain of death, to facilitate the flight of this Prince.

The merchant, who was ignorant that it was the King, for whom he was employed, now no longer doubted that it was him; but being willing to be deceived, he besought the Captain not to listen to his suspicions, and did all he could to dissuade him from the idea.—At length, by bribery and entreaties, the master, without being undeceived,

deceived, suffered himself to be prevailed upon.—Charles having embarked, the merchant kissed his hand, telling him he had suffered himself to be deluded, but wished him a successful voyage, and a happy return to his kingdom.

The King's voyage was fortunate; he arrived safe in France in a short time, where he found the Queen, his mother, and the rest of his family.—He resided for some time in that kingdom, supported by the benevolence of the King, his uncle, whilst the usurper of England peaceably enjoyed the fruit of his crimes, under the title of “the Protector of the Republic,”

into

into which he erected the kingdoms of England and Scotland.—His government was one series of prosperity, and his name equally feared and hated throughout Europe.

His death put an end to his tyranny ; and although his son, at first, succeeded to his dignities, as he had neither his capacity nor good fortune, he was soon obliged to renounce the supreme authority, and yield the throne to its lawful master.

The Parliament, having recalled Charles, the royal command was re-established with as much splendor as before the troubles ; and the Monarch
was

was proclaimed with universal acclamations of joy.—Nothing could be more splendid than the commencement of his reign ; he was adored by his subjects ; and happy would it have been for him if he had known how to preserve their esteem.

This Prince was handsome, and had a good understanding.—No one spoke better than he did ; he was brave ; and it is said, that at twelve years of age, he distinguished himself in a battle, which the King, his father, won in the beginning of the civil wars.

He was liberal and magnificent, even to prodigality, and made himself

very popular, which gained him the love of all his subjects ; but the nobility were soon disgusted with him, and perceived that his defects, by far, surpassed his good qualities.

His easiness of temper ; his want of application to business ; his levity, and that unsteadiness which never left him, his excessive inclination for women ;—his want of religion, and too great complaisance for his brother, drew inconveniencies upon him, which probably, had he lived much longer, would have caused him to fall into the same unfortunate situation in which we now see James the Second.

Charles

Charles thus died as he had lived. His death was caused by a disorder, which his physicians could not find out ; and it was conjectured he had been poisoned, perhaps rather because men are naturally led to attribute the death of great personages to extraordinary causes, than from any certain indications.

As this Prince did not leave any legitimate heir, he was succeeded by his brother, James the Second. This Prince had employed his youth in the exercise of arms. At nine years of age he was found in battle by the side of his father, and since that, had always served in the army of the French

King, where he acquired a great reputation.—When Charles the Second was restored to his crown, he came over with him to England, and occupied the first posts in the administration, which, joined to his having two daughters, and his brother not having any children, attached many to him as heir to the crown.

The people were fond of him till he discovered to them that he was not of the established religion of the country, which he renounced, soon after the reinstatement of his family, having been seduced by the examples and exhortations of the Queen, his mother.

By this conduct, he lost the affections of his people ; and more so, when they saw, that, after the death of his first wife, by whom he had two daughters, he married again to a Princess of his own religion.

The Parliament were so dissatisfied at this new alliance, that they begged of Charles the Second, who then resigned, not to consent to it ; but this Prince, who had a regard for his brother, amounting to weakness, would not give him this uneasiness.—However, the people were so provoked, when they were informed that this marriage was concluded, that James was obliged to watch an opportunity

for bringing his new wife into the capital.

It was then that the Parliament, enraged at this Prince, agreed to exclude him from the throne ; but as it is necessary that the resolutions of the English Parliament should be confirmed by the King, before they can pass into laws, this never took place, as Charles, who was always an affectionate brother, refused his assent.

Notwithstanding the little regard the greatest part of the nation had for James, this Prince ascended the throne without the smallest opposition.—The first time he spoke in council, it was
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in terms so full of moderation, mingled with dignity, that his speech, being published, made great impression on the minds of his people.

This mildness lasted but a short time, and he returned, by degrees, to his natural disposition, which was inclined to haughtiness.

James forgot all he had promised in his speech.—Animated by the priests of his religion, and by the Queen, his wife, who, under the appearance of a devotion, which tended to bigotry, concealed a great deal of pride, and an unbounded desire to introduce despotism, a species of government to

which James was the more inclined, as, during the disgrace of his family, he had learned all the principles of it in France.

This Prince soon lost the small share he had remaining, of the affections of his subjects, and insensibly saw a party rise against him, at the head of which was the Duke of Monmouth, natural son of Charles the Second.

This young man was handsome, full of ambition and ardour, but of a temper little adapted to support a great undertaking.—It did not, however, hinder him from engaging some of the nobility in his party, and he appeared
in

in the field with a body of troops, although ill disciplined, considerable enough to give the King some uneasiness, if he had possessed more moderation and experience; but elated with some trifling successes, he met with at first, he had the audacity to get himself proclaimed King, and treated James as an usurper.

But this rashness cost him dear, and was very soon punished.—The King sent troops to give him battle;—he was defeated, and taken prisoner.—His courage forsook him, as soon as he saw himself in the King's power; and there was nothing he did not do to endeavour to save his head.—He
asked

asked to speak with the King; and this Prince, having sent for him, he threw himself at his feet, and demanded his life, but without any advantage, having humbled himself to no purpose, and he lost his head on the scaffold.

After the defeat and death of the unfortunate Monmouth, James, on whom fortune seemed to smile, thought he might undertake any thing.—He filled the senate and the army with persons of his own religion, contrary to the oath he had taken, when he ascended the throne.—He afterwards attempted to establish his faith, under pretence, that all religion should

should be tolerated in England : The Bishops opposed it, and he caused seven of them to be imprisoned.

Perhaps, notwithstanding these complaints and murmurs, they might have left this Prince unmolested, as he had two daughters by his first wife, who were Protestants, and therefore everything would return to its former footing after his death, if the Queen, who had not had a child for some years, had not been declared pregnant, and actually brought a son.

The whole nation, foreseeing the danger to which they were exposed, in having their laws and privileges annihilated,

nihilated, thought it time to provide for their safety,

The Parliament called to their assistance the Stadtholder, son-in-law to the King; and this Prince did not delay, but landed, with a formidable army, in England, where he was joined by the greatest persons in the kingdom: Among others, by the Princess Ann and her spouse (the daughter and son-in-law to the King). James was so alarmed at this desertion, that he gave all over as lost.—The example of his father terrified him, and he only thought of escaping with his family; but as it was difficult to conceal his flight, if he had the Queen with him,
he

He sent her and her son over to France, to Lewis the Fourteenth, his friend and ally.

He prepared to follow the next day ; and for this purpose disguised himself, and, attended by one man only, he embarked on board a small fishing boat, and was conveyed to the first port, where he discovered himself, and the inhabitants of the place treated him with every mark of respect due to their Sovereign.

The return of James was known in the capital, almost as soon as his flight. The chiefs, informed of the place where he was, sent him his household, his

his guards, and his carriages, and entreated his return to the palace. He yielded to their sollicitations, and his entry into the capital had much the air of triumph.

Never were heard such acclamations ; never was seen a greater inconstancy of fortune.—James thought the unstable goddess reconciled to him ; he began to recover from his panic, and to resume a part of his usual haughtiness, when he received a letter from his son-in-law, which shewed him how little he had to depend on, from the affection of his subjects, and renewed all his fears.

This

This Prince, who was approaching with his army, sent him word, that the business of the state called him to the capital; therefore desired him to retire to one of his country houses, which ever should be most agreeable to him.

This compliment, sent him at midnight, when the King was in bed, and who was awakened to receive it, greatly surprised this Prince, and even seemed too severe to the moderate party.

The King, obliged to yield to his fate, consented to whatever they desired.—He only asked, that instead of retiring

retiring to one of his palaces, he might be permitted to go to one of the seaport towns.

The Stadtholder saw plainly that he only made this demand that he might leave the kingdom with more facility; and as this was what William wished for, he granted his request.

James, as a prisoner, might have moved the compassion of his subjects; but James, flying, might be accused of deserting his kingdom, which was what gave more hopes to the son-in-law, and caused, in reality, the misfortunes of the father-in-law.

The

The King was then obliged to give up his palace to the Prince of Orange, and he was conducted to the town where he wished to go.—They gave him a Dutch guard, but who were ordered not to restrain him.

This Prince passed several days at this place; and happy would it have been for him if he had never left it;—the minds of the people would probably have returned to him, at least he would have nothing to fear, either for his life or liberty, his eldest daughter, wife to the Stadtholder, having too much goodness to suffer an attempt on the person of her father, though his distresses, it must be confessed, did not

give her the uneasiness which might have been expected.

James had it in his power to work some favourable revolution; and if even that did not happen, he would have had the satisfaction not to be accused of desertion; and if his life had been attempted, he would have had the glory to die like a King; but fear had seized this Prince too much; the example of his father terrified him; he embarked as soon as he possibly could, and was joined in France by his wife and son.

The Parliament no sooner heard of his flight, than they declared the
throne

throne vacant ; and that hereafter, neither James, his son, or any one forever, of a different religion to that established in England, should ascend the throne.

In this declaration, James's son was treated as suppositious : I do not know if there was more malice than truth in this assertion ; but it is certain, that the Queen had given reason for it, by having affected not to approve being brought to bed in the presence of those persons who had a right, by birth or dignity, to be present, as is the custom in England.

The Stadtholder and the Princess, his wife, were proclaimed King and Queen, jointly, and the Crown was acknowledged to devolve, of right, to their children, if they should have any ; but, in default of their issue, to the Princess Ann and her descendants.

That Princess, then, had a son, who is lately dead ; and as it is not believed that she will have any more children, myself, being the nearest relation of the established religion of England, the present King, wishing to take away all hope from James and his son, of re-ascending the throne, and wishing to prevent every species of disturbance, has brought the Parliament

ment to acknowledge me and my children heirs to the Princess Ann.

It is, (continued she to the Duke) to your father that I owe this obligation, for what the King of England has done for me ;* for I confess to you I do not believe this Prince would have thought on me, if, in the journey he made to Zell, the Duke, your father (with whom you know he is connected by the strictest friendship) seeing

D 3. him

* William the Third, King of England, came on purpose from Holland, to make a visit to the Duke of Zell, for whom he had a great respect.—It was in this journey that Bernstaff proposed to call the House of Hanover to the succession of the throne of England.

him uneasy at the troubles which threatened England, after his death, and that of the Princess Ann, had not given her the idea of appointing me heir.

In doing me this service, he was likewise promoting your interests ;— for although I have ever cherished a hope of one day wearing that crown, yet, should I ever attain that honour, my age does not admit a supposition that it can be for any length of time ; but for you and my son, you may enjoy it many years ; and I think you will not accuse me of insincerity, when I with you may one day ascend that throne,

throne, to the satisfaction and honour of the British nation.

The Princess thanked the Electress for her good wishes, and for her kind information of the misfortunes of the House of Stuart, and told her she was ignorant if the Duke, her father, had, in reality, contributed to the success of this business, but that she remembered to have heard him say, that he wished nothing more ardently, than to be able, by his good offices, to procure these advantages to the House of Hanover.

The pleasures of the Court were soon interrupted, and converted into

sadness, by the news of the death of Prince Charles, who was killed in a battle, in which the Turks were victorious.

A report was circulated for some days, that Kunigsmark had shared the same fate.

The compassionate heart of the Princess made her shed a few tears; and the loss she experienced at the same time, of a brother-in-law she loved, and a man she esteemed, appeared to her sufficient motives for regret.

The

The Countess of Plate was in despair at hearing of the death of Kunigsmark, and her behaviour made her sister, who never left her, fearful that she would lose the use of her reason.

Fortunately for her, the Elector was indisposed at the same time, and did not leave his chamber ; so that she was enabled to conceal her grief, by pretending to be unwell.

She remained in this situation several days ; but at last she heard that Kunigsmark was living, and that he was on his return to Court with all speed.

At

At this news, her joy was unspeakable, and she was obliged to keep her room, to conceal it as much as before, to hide her grief.

The Princess was not insensible to it ; and the life of Kunigsmark reconciled her more easily to the death of Charles.—The state suffered a considerable loss in this Prince ; he was handsome, well made, brave, ambitious, and sensible, with all the impetuosity natural to youth, but who would have been a great Prince, had he lived, for time to have matured his judgment.

It

It is difficult to express the grief that Kunigsmark felt, at the death of a Prince whom he loved, not only as the son of his master, but as the most tender of friends.—He made all possible search for his body, in order to give it the rite of burial; but all his pains were ineffectual; he could not discover it; and Kunigsmark was deprived of the melancholy consolation of rendering this last service to his friend, Prince Charles.

The troops, being in winter quarters, Kunigsmark returned to Court, and was received by the Princess with a distinction, which would have satisfied Kunigsmark, had he been indifferent, but

but did not content Kunigsmark as a lover.

The Princess was more than ever at variance with the Prince, her husband.—She could not bear, in her sight, Henrietta de Weisebourg, sister to the Countess de Plate, and had given orders that she should not appear before her any more.

The Prince was highly offended ;—he went to the Princess's apartment, and, after having said every thing to her which his anger dictated, he ordered her not only to receive Henrietta, but to treat her as a person she regarded.

The

The Princess, stung to the soul, lost all moderation, and replied with more acrimony than she had ever before done.—Prince George, only the more provoked, gave way to his rage;—seized her by the throat, and grasped it with such violence, that the Princess's women, who rushed in, alarmed at her cries, had much difficulty to disengage her from him.

The Prince left the room, threatening her for ever with his resentment; and the unfortunate lady remained some time in a state of insensibility, and would doubtless have fallen a victim to his unkindness, but for the attention of the women.—When she
had

had recovered from her faintings, she found herself so extremely wretched, that she fell into a kind of stupor, bordering on despair; but Heaven, who reserved her resolution for a still greater trial, gave her strength, this time, to support her disgrace.

Kunigsmark's return was a small consolation to her; and to have some one to whom she could impart the excess of her grief, appeared the greatest alleviation to them that her unhappy state would admit of. She often discoursed to him on this subject, without imagining it could be imputed to her as a crime.

Kunigsmark

Kunigsmark was now so happy in her company, that he forgot, that not having Prince Charles to attend, his assiduity could only be attributed to his attachment for the Princess, while some malicious courtiers watched his every action, and soon discovered that Kunigsmark's eyes, when near the Princess, were always fixed on her.

The Countess de Plate entertained suspicions which she could not dissimulate. She did not conceal them from Kunigsmark; and this lover, knowing the favourite's disposition, trembled for the life of the Princess. He thought every thing was allowable, that might save her; and he made no
scruple

scruple of encouraging the Countess. By his attentions, his submissions, and his oaths, he swore to her that he would never more see the Princess, but at such times as when the whole Court were present; and in short, made so many protestations of fidelity, that, if he did not entirely destroy the suspicions of the Countess, he at least quieted them; but it was but for a short time; the Countess's sentiments towards him were too lively, and she possessed too much penetration, not to discover the truth of an affair, in which his heart was so much interested.

It was at an entertainment, that Kunigsmark gave to the Elector and Electress,

Electress, and the rest of the Court, that the suspicions of the Countess were changed into the most outrageous jealousy.

This nobleman, who only sought occasion to display his magnificence, had entreated the Elector, under pretence of shewing him his gallery of pictures, which he had just compleated, to do him the honour to sup at his house, with the Electress and the royal family; but in fact he was pleased to display to the eyes of the Princess this shew and profusion, while he endeavoured to make it appear to the Countess, that it was on account of her birth-day, that he gave this fête,

which was the most superb of the kind ever seen.

The Princess and the Countess, though from different motives, had neglected nothing to appear with the greatest eclat. After they retired from table, the ball began.—It was broke off three times, by ballets performed by the most celebrated masters; and at each interruption, the most costly refreshments were served. In short, all passed with so much splendor, magnificence, and order, that all, who were present, were equally delighted. The Countess alone appeared dissatisfied, which Kunigsmark perceiving, seized

a moment when the Elector was not near her.

“May I dare, Madam,” said he, “to inquire what can occasion you to put on this serious air;—while the whole Court does me the honour of applauding my fête, shall the beautiful Countess, who is the sole motive of it, alone think it unworthy her approbation?”

“Leave me,” replied the Countess, abruptly; “go and receive the applauses of the Princesses.”

The Elector, at this moment, rejoined the Countess, and Kunigsmark retired.

The Elector, having remarked some alteration in the countenance of his mistress, inquired the cause; and she told him, she found herself indisposed, and begged leave to retire.

The Elector, who had no other will than her's, consented to it; but as he thought her really indisposed, his impatience would not permit him long to delay an inquiry, in person, after her health. He followed soon after, and hastened to her house;—but the Countess, who expected this
attention,

attention, had given orders to say she was retired to rest; so that this Prince was obliged to content himself with hearing she was somewhat better.

Kunigsmark went the next day to thank the Electress for the honour she had done him in supping at his house. He there found the Countess; he bowed to her; but she looked at him with so much disdain, that he concluded himself for ever ruined in her opinion.

“May I not know, Madam,” said he, approaching her, “what is my crime; will you condemn me unheard?”

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“No,”

“No,” replied she, “I wish to speak with you, and convince you of your perfidy ; but it must not be here. Come to me this evening, after the Elector is retired, and I shall see if you can still justify yourself.”

Kunigsmark only answered by a bow, but did not fail to fulfil his appointment.

“Well,” said she to him, as soon as she saw him, “do you dare to present yourself before me again ? Will you dare maintain, that you do not love the Princess, and that you are not beloved by her ?”

“Yes,”

“Yes,” answered Kunigsmark, “I dare aver, that your suspicions are the most unjust in the world, and that never any person loved you more tenderly than I do.

“If the attention I yesterday paid to the Princess, are this day imputed to me as a crime, it will be easy for me to justify myself, provided you will listen to me:—My inclination, my heart, and my wishes, were with you; and I envied the happiness of the Elector a thousand times, but I dared not approach you.

“You know he has entertained suspicions, that you honoured me with

some attention.—It would have been as imprudent as rash, to have paid you, in his presence, all that respect and assiduity which my heart dictated. Thus it was your interest and your peace which engaged me, not to express to you any other sentiments than those of the respect due to you.

“ As to the attention I paid the Princess, her rank, and the honour she did me, in coming to my house, did they not oblige me to pay her every possible respect ?

“ But, Madam, did I go beyond this indispensable duty ? You are continually reproaching me with the Princess ;

ness ; but can you teach me the method how to avoid paying my court to her ?

“ Since you have expressed uneasiness at my frequent visits to her, I have changed my conduct, and I never go but when all the Court is present, which cannot be dispensed with without an appearance of neglect, which might be displeasing to the Elector.

“ Prescribe to me, then, how you would have me conduct myself, and I protest to you that I will conform to it.”

“ Well,”

“ Well,” replied the Countess, somewhat softened, “ I am willing to believe you innocent, because I wish it ; and I wish it, as I would have you only mine.

“ It would be impossible for me to know you loved another, without being driven to some excess of revenge ; but when I profess I am ready to believe you, and perhaps to deceive myself, I only ask you to be candid.— Does not the Princess love you ? Why was she, yesterday, so richly ornamented ? Why was she so cheerful ? She, who has, for a long time, been negligent of her person, and absorbed in melancholy, can I attribute it to any
other

other cause, than the desire of pleasing you, and to shew the satisfaction she experienced, in being in your company ?”

“ I am ignorant,” answered Kunigsmark, “ what may be the subject of the grief, which certainly has appeared to occupy the mind of the Princess for some time ; and I swear to you I never perceived she did me the honour to distinguish me from the other courtiers.

“ As to her dress, she neither flattered nor surpris'd me by it, knowing, as I do, that she always loved shew.”

“ You

“You constrain me to believe whatever you say,” replied the Countess, “and to confide in your word ; but depend upon it, you cannot long deceive me ; and remember I will have your whole heart : I cannot admit you to have any friends, either male or female, but such as are agreeable to me ; I require that you give up every other care but that of pleasing me.

“Perhaps you may think I speak with too much authority ; but my passion for you urges me to apply with the utmost assiduity, to the establishment of your fortune ; and I promise you, that whatever I shall do for you,

I

I shall think myself amply rewarded, if I find your conduct answer my wishes.

“ But I also forewarn you, that if you deceive me, you will find in me the most implacable of enemies.”

The Countess's eyes were suffused with tears, as she finished these words. Kunigsmark threw himself at her feet, and expressed so much gratitude for her kindness, that the Countess, yielding to the ascendancy he had over her heart, placed an entire confidence in his justification, and loved him more tenderly than ever

After

After this reconciliation, Kunigsmark took the utmost precaution not to offend the Countess.—He went no more to the Princess's apartment, but at the time when all the Court were present, and conducted himself in such a manner, that she really thought herself honoured.

She, nevertheless, dreaded the beauty of the Princess, and conceived so great a hatred for her, that she took every opportunity to slander her, and to speak of her in the most opprobrious terms.—These speeches were reported to Mademoiselle de Molck, and this young lady thought it her duty to inform her mistress.

The

The Princess received this intelligence with disdain.

“I despise the Countess too much,” said she, “to concern myself with any thing she can say of me; my conduct is irreproachable; and I am much more anxious about my duty than my reputation.”

The conciliation between Kunigsmark and the Countess was of but short duration.—Notwithstanding their mutual caution, they had at last a quarrel, which proved irreparable; the Countess had been with child some months, though the Count had been two years at Vienna, where the Elector

tor had sent him, to congratulate the Emperor Joseph on his accession to the throne.—She knew not how to conceal her pregnancy from the Elector, and doubted not that she should be ruined, if that Prince should discover her perfidy.

In this perplexity, she addressed herself to Kunigsmark, desiring he would provide her medicines that would procure abortion.—He was shocked at such a proposal, and represented to her the enormity of the criminal design she had formed; but he could not dissuade her, and only drew upon himself the severest reproaches; and she had recourse to a physician, who,

who, either intimidated by her threats, or seduced by her promises, rendered her this horrible service.

But whether he was not sufficiently skilful, or that Heaven, in its wrath, to punish such dreadful crimes, permitted it, such terrible effects remained to herself, that her life was, from that time, only a continuation of wretchedness.*

But what was most unfortunate for her in this affair, her crime became

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public ;

* The Countess, from the medicines she took, lost the use of her limbs.

public; one of her women, who had been in her confidence, and whom she had dismissed from her service, took care to publish it, and also her connexion with Kunigsmark.

The Countess, hearing that her secret was disclosed, and that her affair with Kunigsmark was public, had every reason to fear the Elector's resentment; and resolving, in her own mind, how to prevent it, she flattered herself she had found the means, if she could persuade Kunigsmark to marry her daughter, which she had by the Elector,* but who passed for the Count's;

* Madame de Killmeuseck.

Count's ; she proposed this match to him.—He at first laughed at her, and treated such an idea as a jest ; but seeing she urged it seriously, he answered with scorn, that he never would be guilty of incest.

At this answer of Kunigsmark's, the eyes of the Countess were inflamed with rage and vexation, and all her former jealousy was rekindled.

“Go,” said she, “you are ungrateful, and do not deserve that I should even reproach you ; but you shall soon learn that I am not to be contemned with impunity ;” and without saying any thing more, she passed hastily in-

to her closet, and shut the door, leaving Kunigsmark confounded, and full of astonishment, to see so much wickedness united in one mind; and if he felt at all concerned at her menaces, it was only because he apprehended they might fall on the Princess.

The Countess, having thus passed, in a moment, from the most tender love to the most violent hatred, thought only on the ruin of Kunigsmark and the Princess.—She obliged her sister, Henrietta de Meisebourg, to raise suspicions in the Prince George, of the attachment he shewed for the Princess, whilst, on her part, she

she endeavoured to render her conduct suspected by the Elector.

“Observe, then, my Lord,” said she to this Prince, in speaking of Kunigsmark and the Princess, “and you will easily discover, that what I tell you, of their connexion, is but too true. I have no reason to be angry with them ; on the contrary, Kunigsmark has ever endeavoured to oblige me ; and it hurts me to speak against him ; but your interest, and the honour of your house, are dearer to me than the ties of friendship ; and I cease to look on that person as a friend, who shall dare to offend in so delicate a point.”

She accompanied these words with so natural an air, and such a semblance of truth, that the Elector, still enamoured, suffered himself to be deceived, and thought only of observing the Princess.

Whilst all this passed, that lady was far from supposing that the Elector and Prince George could suspect her; and conscious virtue encouraged her so much, that she never thought that the ill offices, which she knew the Countess was capable of doing her, would make any impressions on these Princes.

She

She continued, then, to treat Kunigsmark with the same degree of confidence.—The Countess did not fail to make the Elector remark even the slightest look that the Princess might happen to cast on Kunigsmark.—The most trifling actions were construed into crimes; and, in short, she wrought so on the mind of this Prince, that he began to think his daughter-in-law criminal, and to treat her with the utmost indifference.

Prince George, on his part, impelled by Henrietta, redoubled the harshness of his proceedings towards her, and at last reduced this unfortunate Princess to think of separating from

him ; but she judged it improper to determine on any thing of so delicate a nature, without first consulting the Duke, her father.

She begged of the Electress to procure her the permission to go to Zell ; and this Princess took pleasure in rendering her this service.

The conformity of their situations had at last united the Electress with the Princess.—The Elector did not love his consort, Princess Sophia, any more than Prince George, his amiable Princess ; but he treated her with more respect ; they had neither of them any power ; their hatred for the
Countess

Countess was mutual ; and this perfidious woman equally distressed both ; but the Electress, having more command over herself, shewed her more complaisance, and was consequently better treated by her.

The Electress, being a greater adept in the art of dissimulation than most of her sex, pretended to see, without concern, the attachment of the Elector for the Countess, and did not discover the smallest signs of jealousy ; and without a thorough knowledge how far this lady could disguise her sentiments, it was difficult to form any judgment of their reality.

Policy

Policy induced her to keep company with this favourite of the Elector's, in order to preserve terms with him ; and by this complaisance, she at least reserved to herself the pleasure of having a drawing-room at her apartment, while the Princess, who held a different conduct, was often alone.

The whole Court knew the little regard her consort had for her ; they saw the father's mistress, and that of the son's brave her with impunity ; and they were not ignorant, that if the Elector still shewed her any attention, that his policy, and the respect he paid the fair sex in general, had more share in it than friendship.

The

The Princess, who possessed more sensibility than the Electress, felt her troubles more acutely ; and as she understood not how to disguise her feelings, the Electress easily discovered she was unhappy, and was sensibly affected by it.

This Princess, naturally generous, thought it her duty to relieve the distresses of a person who so little merited the treatment she experienced ; and it was with this benevolent intention she asked permission of the Elector, for the Princess to pass a few months at her father's Court, which favour was granted.

It

It was great consolation to this amiable Princess, to behold again the place of her birth.—Soon after her arrival, finding herself alone with Mademoiselle de Molck, she could not refrain from tears, at the recollection of the tranquillity she had enjoyed in that place.

“ Alas !” said she to that lady, “ why have I not less grandeur, and more comfort ; how happy was I here, my dear Molck, and how wretched am I at Hanover.

“ Oh ! had it pleased Heaven that I had been born in a more humble station, then I might have bestowed
my

my hand with my heart, and should not have been the victim of my father's policy ; and I might have lived contented in unenvied obscurity.

The Duke and Duchefs of Zell entered at this moment.—They found their daughter bathed in tears, the fight of which affected and furprised them, and they immediately inquired the cause of fuch extraordinary affliction ; but they were fhocked when the Princess related the ill treatment ſhe received from Prince George, her confort.

She then threw herſelf at her father's feet, and embracing his knees,
“ My

“ My Lord,” said she, with a voice almost stifled with sobs, “ suffer me to implore your protection, and permit me to entreat of you to afford me an asylum from the tyranny of my husband.”

The Duke, sensibly affected at the distressed situation in which he saw her, raised and embraced her ; and after shedding a few involuntary tears, he used every argument to dissuade her from the resolution she had taken ; he conjured her, by the duty which she owed him, not to think of separating from her consort, and to endeavour to support her misfortunes with greater fortitude ; but seeing she persisted in beseeching

beseeching him to grant her a refuge, he told her, that although she was dearer to him than life, he could never consent to her request, and that he absolutely insisted on her return to Hanover.

The Duke then retired, charging the Duchess to calm the mind of her daughter, and to persuade her to compliance with what he desired, in which the Duchess, with difficulty, succeeded.

The Princess, finding herself so very unsuccessful in her application, and feeling, more forcibly, the ill treatment of the Prince, by the unkindness
of

of her father, from whose tenderness she had formed the most sanguine expectations, became inconsolable and overwhelmed with despair; but at length the Duchess, having promised her that she would endeavour to bring over Bernstaff to join her, and, if possible, prevail on the Duke to change his opinion, she felt a secret hope, that they might be able to soften her father; and this hope moderated her grief.

The Duchess spoke to the minister. She even condescended to entreat him to be favorable to her daughter;—but she found his sentiments quite opposite to her wishes.

He

He answered, with the greatest indifference, that neither his conscience, nor the duty he owed the Duke, herself, and the Princess, would allow him to advise his highness to consent to his daughter's demand, since it must occasion an irreparable breach with the Elector and his lady, who, sooner or later, would not fail to resent the affront that would be done them ; a resentment which was more to be feared for herself and the Princess, after the decease of the Duke, than for any one else, since they could not avoid being in the power of the Prince, when he should succeed to the Electorate ; and

that, with a disposition like his, revenge was a thing to be dreaded.

The minister continued to represent to the Duchess of Zell the dishonour a separation (which might be termed a desertion) would be to the Princess, and how much it would expose her to the malice of her enemies, and even the world, who is not much given to judge favourably of a woman who leaves her husband.

He continued saying, it was for the honour of the Princess, the good of her children, and the safety of the people of Zell, that she should live
with

with him, whom Heaven had destined for her consort.

That, notwithstanding the disregard he might shew her, she would always be more respected at his Court than any where else ; that, in fine, by living at Hanover, she might, in time, gain over Prince George ; that there were few passions, however violent they might be, but had an end ; and it was to be hoped, that which he entertained for Henrietta de Merf-bouch, would also have its termination ; that this Prince would, doubtless, then, return to the Princess, and acknowledge the wrong he had done

her ; a hope she would for ever lose, if she refused to return to him.

The Duchess understood his reasons, and approved them ; and, in short, joined the Duke in engaging her to return to Hanover ; so there remained no resource to the unfortunate Sophia, than that which her own despair might suggest.

In the mean time, Bernstaff triumphed, in having persuaded the Duchess that it was her interest, and that of the Princess, which made him oppose the latter.

Instead

Instead of which, as he was ignorant what might be his own fate, after the death of the Duke, he thought only of establishing himself in the favour of the Elector, and his son, Prince George, that the advanced age of the Duke made him already consider them as his masters.

He foresaw, that, if the Duke detained his daughter, she would soon solicit that Prince to consent to an entire divorce from her husband, and that, in obtaining it, the Princess would soon prevail on him to make a change in the succession of his dominions, which would effectually destroy

all his own ambitious designs, and overthrow his fortunes : Whereas he did not doubt the securing it, by the service he should render the House of Hanover.

The distressed Princess, not finding an asylum with the Duke, her father, as she had hoped, was constrained to return to Hanover.

She was there received with great indifference, by the Elector and Prince George ; Bernstaff having informed them of what had passed at Zell, and made a merit to these Princes of having opposed the Princess.

Prince

Prince George reproached the Princess bitterly, and threatened to make her, one day, repent the complaints she had made of him at Zell.— She supported these menaces with apparent constancy, while she was meditating on the most eligible means to escape from his tyranny.

The troubles of the Court gave her full liberty for such an undertaking.— The Prince was too much engaged in disputes with his brother, Maximilian, to have leisure to think on her.

There reigned between these Princesses a mortal enmity: The courtiers

G 4 espoused

espoused the cause of each, according to their interest or inclination; and although seniority seemed to give prerogative to Prince George, his reserved, his too great a disposition to economy, and his natural insensibility, led those, who attached themselves to him, to do it more from duty than inclination.

Prince Maximilian had many faults; but he was full of vivacity and spirit, easy of access, and truly liberal, which attracted most of the young persons of the Court, and occasioned many of the nobility to wish that the Elector would divide his dominions between him and Prince George.

The

The natural bias of the Elector's inclination tended to favour such a division, as he had not the same tenderness and affection for his eldest son as for Duke Maximilian; he did not think he possessed sufficient courage and activity; but the good fortune of Prince George, supported by the credit of the Countess, ever united in interest with him, overcame the Elector's predilection for his second son, and deprived him of those advantages which he expected from his father's tenderness.

He could not see himself deprived of such flattering hopes, without the

utmost vexation, and conceived a mortal hatred against his brother.— His youth, and extreme vivacity, would not permit him to dissimulate; and his ambition prompted him to think of obtaining, by stratagem and force, what was not *his*, from right of birth.

He began by attaching to his cause several noblemen of Zell, who were dissatisfied at seeing their country likely to become a province to Hanover, in case Prince George should inherit the Dukedom.

He

He then sent Count Molck, one of his confidants, to demand of the Emperor that he might be declared heir to the Duke of Zell, under the pretence that the Dukedom and the Electorate could never be united under one governor.

Mulck concluded the treaty, which was very advantageous to the Imperialists.—He then returned to Hanover, for his master to ratify it ; but he was no sooner arrived there, than he was arrested and searched, when they found upon him the treaty, which discovered, to a certainty, the subject of his negotiation, of which the Count
de

de Plate, who had great correspondence at Vienna, had been informed, but which did not mention those who were in the interests of Maximilian.

Molck was interrogated;—they threatened to put him to the most horrible tortures, if he did not declare the whole; and, on the contrary, they offered him a free pardon, if he would accuse the Princess of being in league with Maximilian.

“The Count must not expect from me so infamous a falsehood,” replied Molck, to those who were sent to him; “and let him know, that I
prefer

prefer death to a life, which, preserved by such base conduct, would render me as despicable as himself."

He then inquired what was done with Prince Maximilian; and having been informed that he fled as soon as he knew that he was arrested, and believed him gone to Vienna—"My master is in safety," said he; "I have nothing more to fear; I brave the fury of the Court."

Molck's answer did not leave his enemy without hope, that he might yet be able to involve the Princess in his disgrace; he had the audacity to
go

go to her apartment, and interrogate her as a criminal ; he made use of fraud and artifice : He told her, the only thing she could do, was to throw herself on the mercy of the Elector and Prince George, since her confession was not wanting to assure them of her crime, Molck and his companions having confessed the whole.

“ I am ignorant,” said the Princess, “ what Molck may have said ; but as I have ever known him to be virtuous, I doubt if he would sully his reputation by so black a calumny ; but be it as it will, I will never ask pardon, when

when I have done nothing to deserve it.

“ I have not committed any crime against the state, or my husband, and you are well persuaded of my innocence, though you dare to be my accuser and my judge.—It is not probable I should have espoused the cause of my brother-in-law to my own disadvantage, and that of my children, in depriving them of a Dukedom.

“ Believe me, Count, if you have sworn my ruin, you should invent a more plausible accusation ; the present will only augment the public hatred.

hatred against you ; and be assured, that although you may oppress me, you will never be able to fally my character.

“ But, continued she, “ I am insensibly engaging myself in reproaches, which you may take for explanations, into which I shall never condescend to enter with you.

“ Go, then, and make use of that power given to you by the Elector and my husband ; take from me this feeble remain of life ; you have it in your power ; the stroke will be acceptable ;

ceptable ; and it is the only service I will ever receive from you."

The Count, who only took part against the Princess, to oblige his wife, felt some remorse at having distressed her.—He would have justified himself, and perhaps might have obtained a reconciliation, if the Princess would have condescended to have heard him.

"No justifications—no excuses," said she to him ; "I will hear none ; and expect nothing from me but the utmost contempt."

With these words she left the room, leaving the Count petrified with mortification and disappointment.

Although the unfortunate Count Molck had, on the scaffold, exonerated the Princess from having any knowledge of Prince Maximilian's design, yet the cruel Prince did not cease, daily, to load her with reproaches, and stimulated by Henrietta, his brother's plot served him as a pretence to increase his severity towards her, by which means he brought her to a determination, to put in practice her long projected design of escaping from his tyranny by flight.

She

She imparted her intentions to Kunigsmark, being the only person of the Court in whom she could confide;— and after having charged Mademoiselle de Molck to introduce him into her closet, she told him, before this young lady, that she was resolved to quit Hanover, and retire into France, where Lewis the Fourteenth, protector (of so many unfortunate Princes) would willingly grant her an asylum from the fury of her enemies.

“I know,” said she, “your zeal and your virtue; you have long possessed my confidence; I do not hesitate to intrust you with my intended

H 2 elopement;

elopement ; you know how just the proceeding is ; you know my heart ; and you know the wrongs I suffer, and those I have to fear.

“ The cruel necessity obliges me to fly from so much tyranny ; yet I trust you will believe it wounds my feelings, when I reflect I am on the point of being for ever separated from my husband, my children, and my country.”

The eyes of the Princess were suffused with tears ; she could utter no more ; her melancholy situation penetrated the heart of the too susceptible Kunigsmark.

A crowd of ideas presented themselves to his imagination; the cruelty of Prince George; the hatred of the Countess; the misfortunes of the Princess; the resolution which she had taken; the confidence she had reposed in him; and, in short, the hope of being soon in a situation to see her, without restraint, were those which most engaged, and for some moments, hindered him from speaking.

The Princess, suspecting his silence proceeded from his disinclination to serve her, viewed him some moments with fixed attention; then resuming her discourse—"You do not answer

H 3

me,"

me," said she to him; "and you, who have so often professed to be attached to my interest, abandon me, at a time when I place all my hope in you."

"Ah! Kunigsmark, is this what you promised?"

"No," answered Kunigsmark;—"my silence does not arise from a want of zeal for you, nor for want of resolution to serve you.—If I have testified any surprise, it had no other foundation than apprehension for your safety; dispose of me, and of my life; depend on my fidelity; I will insure
your

your flight ; I will deliver you from this horrible abode, even (if requisite) at the hazard of my life ; but pardon me, Madam ; though I account the honour of serving you the greatest happiness of my life, if I mistrust my own good fortune ; and if I am apprehensive, I shall not be successful in my enterprise."

"Heaven will favour us, Kunigsmark," replied the Princess ; "let us place an entire confidence in the Supreme Being, who, knowing the justice of my cause, will grant me his protection ; but if, in his infinite wisdom, he sees it good to disappoint

my wishes, I shall bow submissive to his will."

Kunigsmark could not refrain his admiration at the virtues of this Princess.—He was charmed at her resolution; he repeated his assurances of fidelity, and agreed with her, that he would have horses ready to conduct her to Hamburgh, from whence she might embark for France.—This project being settled between the Princess and Kunigsmark, this nobleman exerted his utmost endeavours to put it in execution, but found so many difficulties in the completion of his scheme, that he was obliged to have
several

several secret interviews with the Princess, who always spoke to him in the presence of Mademoiselle de Molck at night, when every one was retired.

The air of mystery attendant on this confidence was no small pleasure to Kunigsmark ; he always found so much to say, and was so delighted in the company of the Princess, that he was often induced to prolong those moments, which appeared to him so agreeable, that Mademoiselle de Molck was sometimes obliged to remind him it was time to retire, whilst the sprightly sallies of Kunigsmark made

the Princess, for a time, forget her distressful situation.

These interviews could not be held so secretly, but that the Countess (who watched every motion of the Princess, in order to effect her ruin) discovered them : She immediately informed the Elector, who, judging from false appearances, no longer doubted the Princess's guilt ; and he would certainly have openly shewed his indignation against her and Kunigsmark, if he could have determined in what manner to punish them.

Kunigsmark

Kunigsmark prevented, for some time, the effects of his rage.—Having set out from Hanover, under pretence of going to make a visit to his sister, who was principal favourite at the Court of Augustus, King of Poland, he took, for some days, the road to that kingdom; but being out of the Elector's dominions, he left his attendants, and, accompanied by one servant only, he went to Hamburgh, where he settled every thing for the departure of the Princess, and then, with inconceivable diligence, travelled to the Court of Augustus.

It

It was there that his conduct and prudence forsook him; when, in a state of inebriation, at a supper given by the King of Poland, they drank to excess; and when the wine began to enliven their imaginations, the King proposed to his company, that each should relate his affairs of gallantry, and tell what success he expected with his favourite lady.—As he became intoxicated, Kunigsmark, the imprudent Kunigsmark, without reflecting that he spoke in the presence of a Hanoverian nobleman, boasted the favours of the Countess; recounted the manner in which she proposed to him to procure her medicines, to prevent

her

her shame being pregnant, in the absence of her husband, and also her having urged him to marry her daughter.—In short, he related all her infidelities to the Elector; then insensibly falling into discourse about the Princess, he recited the ill treatment she received from Prince George, and added, that this Princess, finding herself abandoned by her father, was on the point of escaping into France.

The Hanoverian, who listened attentively to Kunigsmark, was a man of quality, who, for having displeased the Countess, was obliged to quit the Electoral Court.—He was fondly attached

tached to his country, and wished for nothing more ardently, than to be enabled to return to it: He immediately conceived the idea, that if he wrote an account to the Countess, of all that Kunigsmark had said, he might procure his recall:—He did not look upon himself as guilty of a treachery. Having never been in the habits of friendship with Kunigsmark, he took care his information should be the most circumstantial imaginable; and the Countess was but too well assured of the truth of the whole, conscious as she was of deserving that part which related to herself.

It

It is difficult to conceive this woman's rage, at reading this fatal letter. She gave herself up entirely to her resentment, in her despair; she went to the Elector, and made bitter complaints to him, of the outrage Kunigsmark had done her.—She then related all that this perfidious lover had told of the Princess; and she so well understood how to irritate the Elector, that this Prince swore to revenge her in such a manner, as no one hereafter should dare to offend her. The Elector was in the height of his passion when the unfortunate Kunigsmark, returned from Poland, came to pay his respects to him.—He gave him so
cold

cold a reception, that Kunigsmark, confounded, not knowing the subject of his disgrace, to which he would have been more sensible, had he not expected soon to leave Hanover for ever.

The Elector, having passed hastily to the apartment of the Countess, Kunigsmark went to that of the Electress, where he found the Princess, who, by the gracious reception she gave him, dissipated the chagrin which the apparent displeasure of the Elector had occasioned.

However,

However impatient the Princess might be to learn the success of his enterprise, she forbore to inquire, Knowing all her actions would be observed, she ordered Mademoiselle de Molck to appoint Kunigsmark to attend her at midnight, that he might inform her if he had been fortunate in his undertaking.

Kunigsmark did not fail to obey; he found the Princess in her closet with Mademoiselle.—She eagerly inquired, as soon as he appeared, if she might look on him as her deliverer, and if all was ready for her flight.—Kunigsmark assured her he had settled every thing,

and she had only to give orders for her departure.

The Princess expressed her gratitude, and mentioned the next evening.—Kunigsmark pressed her not to delay.—He represented to her, that every thing favored the attempt ; the Prince was absent ; the Countess indisposed ; and the Elector too much taken up with her, to attend to any thing ; that, if she procrastinated her escape but a few hours, it might not be in her power to effect it.—Prince George might return, and the malice of the Countess might prevail on the Elector to have her watched ; that he
could

could not forget the reception he had met with from the Elector, so contrary to the manners and character of that Prince; that, in short, although till now he had never been sensible of fear, yet he trembled, now he saw her in danger, and besought her (if possible) to set out that very instant.

These arguments did not make any change in the sentiments of this Princess.—She told him, she could not resolve to go, without bidding adieu to her children; that there was no reason to fear the return of Prince George, since he was to remain another month with the King of Prussia,

to whom he was gone to pay a visit ;* that the rage of the Elector was no longer to be feared ; that Prince not being naturally violent ; and it was her opinion, she might defer her departure till the next day, without any risk of losing the opportunity. Kunigsmark was vexed to see the Princess so firm in her resolution, but not daring to oppose it any more, was obliged to submit.

She sent him away soon after, appointing the next night, at the same hour ;

* King George was not at Berlin when his wife was arrested, and knew nothing of it till it was done.

hour; telling him she would then resign herself to his protection.

AS

Kunigsmark then retired, intending to join his attendants, who were waiting for him at a small distance from the palace, but he was prevented by a most melancholy catastrophe. Henrietta, who was with the Electress when Kunigsmark arrived, had remarked that the Princess shewed signs of joy at his return; that she had given some private orders to Mademoiselle, who spoke apart to Kunigsmark. She thought there must be some mystery in it, and hastened to communicate her suspicions to the Elector and the

Countess, who were both of her opinion, and did not doubt but it was to contrive an interview between the Princess and Kunigsmark, that Mademoiselle had spoken to this nobleman.

All the jealous rage of the Countess being rekindled at this report of her sister, she besought the Elector not to defer, for an instant, the punishment of the rash Kunigsmark.—“The honour of your son, my Lord, your own, and that of your house,” said she to him, “ought to excite you to revenge yourself on a presumptuous youth, who

who dares to brave you in your very palace.

“But if these reasons cannot actuate you, remember, my Lord, you have promised to revenge the insult he did my reputation at the Court of Poland, and know, I cease to be your's, if you do not grant me his head.”

She accompanied these last words with a menacing air, which made the too credulous Elector fear that he might lose her; and, as she was more precious to him than any other consideration, he swore to put Kunigsmark to death.

The Countess, seeing the Elector was ready to sacrifice him to satisfy her revenge, and only hesitated upon the choice of the persons whom he should charge with the cruel commission, told him she was sure of four men, who only waited her orders.

When they came, the Elector knew them to belong to his guards; he spoke to them himself, and commanded them to wait for Kunigsmark (in one of the galleries of the palace, at the end of which was the Princess's apartment) and stab him on his return.

The

The Countess, who feared she might not be well served, was not satisfied with this order; she required of the Elector that he should assist, in person, at this shocking execution (and it is said) the Elector, who had not power to refuse her, consented; and having disguised himself, and covered his face, accompanied the assassins to the gallery.

They did not wait long; the unfortunate Kunigsmark made his appearance a few moments afterwards, when he was attacked by his enemies. He immediately drew his sword, and would doubtless have made them pay dear

dear for his life, if his sword had not broke, after a few moments combat—when, finding himself defenceless, he said to his murderers, “tell him that sent you, my blood is a sufficient atonement, and let him spare that of the innocent Princess.”

He then fell down dead, pronouncing this name so dear to him; and these ruffians repeated their stabs several times

The Elector then appeared, and ordered that they should cast their unfortunate victim into a vault, which this Prince caused to be blocked up
the

the next day.*—He then went to the Countess, and informed her she was revenged; and this woman received the news with a joy which only a soul like her's could feel.

The Princess, in the mean time, knew not the misfortune of Kunigsmark; she retired soon after he had left her; but the agitation of her mind would not allow her to sleep.

A thousand reflexions disquieted her, and occupied her mind till it was nearly

* The Elector, the father of George the First, having caused Kunigsmark to be assassinated, had his body thrown into a place which was walled up.

nearly time to rise, when Mademoiselle de Molck entered her chamber.

“ Pardon me, Madam,” said she, “ if my zeal for your service will not permit me to suppress an information, which, I fear, will wound your peace.”

“ Speak, speak, Mademoiselle,” said the Princess, interrupting her, “ I am prepared for the most disastrous events ; and all you can acquaint me with will trouble me but little.”

This lady, charmed to see her so resigned, did not delay to inform her
that

that Kunigsmark had not been at home ; that his people had sought for him every where, without being able to obtain the least information ; and that, from a violent noise, that had been heard in one of the galleries, together with a quantity of blood, found in that place, they had been induced to suspect he had been murdered, returning from her presence.

“Kunigsmark is dead,” cried the Princess ; “I make no doubt of it ; and the barbarous Countess marked him as her victim, for having been attached to my interest.”

The

The Princess was silent some moments ; then resuming her discourse, said, “ surely the measure of my woes is full, and Heaven, in mercy, will permit the Countess to make me the second victim to her revenge :—
“ It is, Great God, the only blessing I implore ;—deign, Oh ! Father of mercies, to hear my prayer.”

Mademoiselle, affected at the sufferings of the Princess, could not refrain from tears.

“ Weep not, Mademoiselle,” said she ; “ my griefs are of a nature superior to tears ; they take their source
from

from smaller woes than mine ; do not let me see any weakness, but learn to submit to the will of Heaven : I defy the fury of the Countess, and the cruelty of the too easy Elector ; I will, by my fortitude, make them blush, if possible, at their inhumanity ; and without murmuring against Providence, who has, for a long time, tried my constancy, I will patiently wait the accomplishment of my destiny."

One of the Princess's women came in at this moment, to acquaint Mademoiselle that some one inquired for her.—Having something of consequence

quence to communicate, Mademoiselle ventured, but soon rejoined her mistress, to tell her that one of Kunigsmark's servants came to inform her that a secretary of state had seized all his master's papers, and had carried them to the Countess; and that this same servant understood, by one of that lady's women, that she had obtained leave of the Elector to look over the papers of this unfortunate gentleman, under pretence that she wished to see if Kunigsmark had not had an intrigue with some ladies of the Court, but, in reality, it was to take away some letters she had written to him herself, which would have discovered

covered the whole of her perfidy to the credulous Elector.—At this news the Princess gave herself up as lost, as she apprehended Kunigsmark might have kept the letter she had written to him herself, on the subject of her escape during his residence in Poland.

The suspicions of the Princess^s were but too true ; the imprudent Kunigsmark had carefully preserved these fatal letters ; the Countess found them in a private drawer ; and, after having read them, she shewed them to the Elector, who clearly saw the Princess's design was to retire into France.

The pointed raillery which this lady there made upon his amours with the Countess, together with the complaints she made of the severity of the Duke of Zell, and of her husband, one of whom she termed an old tyrant, and the other an unfeeling monster, exasperated the Elector against her; his indignation was extreme, and he gave himself up entirely to his resentment; he sent immediately and arrested Mademoiselle de Molck, and gave orders that the Princess should not quit her own apartment.—He at the same time dispatched an express to Prince George, and sent the Count de Platé to the Duke of Zell, to inform him
of

of what had happened respecting his daughter.

The Prince delayed not to return to Hanover, and at first seemed not to approve of the public manner in which the affair had been conducted. He reproached the Countess, and told her she might have been contented with the death of Kunigsmark, without causing the Princess and Mademoiselle de Molck to be arrested, as their disgrace was a reflection on him ; but he soon changed his opinions, when the Countess informed him of the manner in which the Princess spoke of him in her letters to Kunigsmark,

mark, and not only approved of the proceedings, but resolved to punish his wife with the utmost rigour.

The Duke of Zell perfectly acquiesced, and told the Elector, that, since the Princess, by her letters, had forgot he was her father, that he should no longer acknowledge her as his daughter, and that he left him entire master of her destiny.

The Duchefs of Zell was more sensible to the unhappy fate of her daughter; she threw herself at the feet of her husband, to entreat he would protect the unfortunate Princess;

cess ; but this Prince was insensible to her tears, and answered her coolly, that he no longer remembered that he had a daughter.

This answer, taking away all hope from the Duchess, of being able to prevail on her husband to alter his opinion, she wrote to the Princess, to exhort her to submit to the decrees of Heaven, and wait patiently the will of Providence, who, in his own good time, would make her virtues apparent, and reward them.

The Count, to whom this letter was addressed, gave it to the Princess, and

the Elector sent to inform her, that, having resolved to send her to Zell, she had only to prepare to set out immediately. The minister acquitted himself of his commission with inconceivable arrogance, and had the audacity to carry his insolence so far, as to ask her if it was true that she was pregnant by Kunigsmark, as it was so reported.

“ You imagine you are speaking to your wife,” replied the Princess, disdainfully ; “ it is of her you should ask that question ; she is more concerned to justify herself than I am, who

who scorn to vindicate myself to you."

"Go," continued she, "finish your work; I have nothing to say to you; go, and offend me no longer, by your presence."

The haughty minister, irritated by her manner, left the room, meditating on the means to lower the pride of the Princess.—To succeed in depriving her of her liberty, was not sufficient; he wished to sully her reputation;—with this view he visited the prison of Mademoiselle de Molck, and endea-

voured to gain her over to his interest, by promises and threats.

“ Your favours are hateful to me,” said Mademoiselle de Molck, “ if they are to be the reward of my treachery ;—and your menaces serve only to attach me more firmly to my duty : Imagine not that I will purchase my life by the blackest perfidy ; and know, that if you even cause me to mount the scaffold, I will there give public testimony to the virtues of the amiable Princess, of the barbarity of your wife, and of your injustice.”

This discourse, which was delivered with a noble firmness, deprived him of
all

all hope of being able to gain over Mademoiselle ; he quitted her abruptly, threatening her with his resentment.

He then went to give orders for the departure of the Princess, having agreed with Bernstaff, first minister of the Duke of Zell, that the Princess should be taken to that place, and safely guarded in the Castle of Ahlen, six miles from this capital.

A Captain of the Elector's guards came to inform the Princess, that it was time to depart.—He was charged, at the same time, to inform her of the death

death of Kunigsmark. The confirmation of that nobleman's death did not fail to affect the Princess, who, till that time, could not forbear flattering herself that they had not proceeded to such violent measures.

She honoured his memory with a few tears, reproaching herself with his death, as if she had really been an accomplice in it.

The palace of Hanover was shocking to her.—“Let us go,” said she to her conductor; “let me leave this horrid place.—If you take me even to a dungeon, I shall prefer it.”

She

She went out of her apartment as she pronounced these words, and got into her carriage, without knowing whence she was going. She arrived at the Castle of Ahlen, after a few hours journey.

The governor received her with a great deal of respect, and conducted her to the apartment that had been proposed for her, and informed her, that, in this Castle, she was to pass the remainder of her days.

He presented to her the domestics chosen by the Elector, and the Duke to attend her, who were all people of whom

whom she had not the smallest knowledge.

The day after her arrival in this melancholy place, the Elector and her father sent two secretaries of state, to interrogate her ;—if (to the scandal of the Elector, and the Duke and Prince George, her consort) she had not had a design of retiring into France with Kunigsmark, and if she never had any criminal correspondence with him ?

The Princess answered, “ It was true, that not being able longer to support the ill usage of her husband, she had formed a design of retiring into
France,

France, and placing herself in a convent ; that Kunigsmark was to have accompanied her on the journey, there being no other person in whom she could confide ; but as to the criminal connexion with which they accused her, she attested Heaven to witness her innocence ; she wished that the ancient Pagan law had been in force, which permitted women, accused of adultery, to prove their innocence, by an ordeal, as she was ready to suffer any trial which could be suggested."

She asked permission to take the holy sacrament ; and when the minister presented her the bread, she
took

took it, and raising it in her hands towards Heaven, she said, with a loud voice, calling God to witness her sincerity, that she was as guiltless of the crime imputed to her, as the mother of him, whose body and blood she was then receiving.—When the cup was offered her, she repeated the same, taking it with such a modest, though assured air, as did not fail to convince the priest, and every one present, of her innocence.

After so solemn a testimony of her virtue, no one doubted it.—Nevertheless, the Duke, her father, would not be persuaded to pardon her.—He
could

could not forget the manner in which she had spoken of him in her letters to Kunigsmark ; and notwithstanding the prayers and entreaties of the Duchess to restore her daughter to liberty, he never would consent to it.

The Elector, in the mean time, being informed of what had passed at the chapel, and that the Princess had made so solemn an attestation of her innocence, as had convinced every one.—Apprehending the return of the Duke's affection towards his daughter, and that he might one day revenge the outrage which had been done to her, by changing the order of the succession

cession to his dominions, to the prejudice of Prince George, persuaded this Prince to make an offer to the Princess of a re-union, and the proposal was accordingly made to her.

The Count and Countess of Plate did not oppose the measure, being well persuaded that it would be rejected by the Princess ; and, in reality, her answer to the proposition was this :—
 “ Tell Prince George,” said she to those who came to her from him,
 “ that, after what has passed, it is impossible we can ever be re-united ;—
 since, if I am guilty, I am unworthy
 of

of him ; and if innocent, he is unworthy of me."

The Prince was so irritated at this refusal, that he solicited his father-in-law to consent to have the marriage disannulled in form, to which the Duke having agreed, the Elector assembled the consistories of Hanover and Zell, who declared the marriage of Prince George to be void, permitting him to marry again ; but the Princess was not allowed the same liberty.

This divorce was one of the Elector's last works.—He soon after fell

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into so bad a state of health, as deprived him of the ability of attending to business.*—His disorder was accompanied with such excruciating pains, that he prayed continually for dissolution.—Still, however, submissive to the last, to the will of the Countess, and thinking only of pleasing her, he could not surmount his hatred for the Princess, and was willing to leave proofs of it, even after his decease.

Finding

* He was paralytic for two years, and frequently attacked with a cholic, which scarce gave him any respite —When he was opened, his intestines were found to be entirely decayed.

Finding his end approach, he sent for the Duke of Zell, his brother, to come and take his last embrace.—The Duke, being arrived at Hanover, the Elector solicited him to give assurance, by oath, that he would never pardon the Princess; that she should remain all her life a prisoner at Ahlen, and that he would make no alteration in the succession to his dominions, which were to remain to Prince George.

The Duke of Zell, affected at the situation in which he found his brother, promised him every thing, and kept his promise but too well;—his

favourite Bernstaff, having all his life time, understood how to manage his disposition, made a point to stifle every emotion of compassion which nature might sometimes awaken in his breast, in favour of his daughter.

* The Countess did not survive the Elector more than two years; and that time was a continued succession of miseries.—At last, that God, whom she had so offended by her repeated crimes,

* The Countess de Plate died of the same disease as the Elector.—A physician from Hamburgh undertook to cure her, and ordered her to bathe twice a day in milk; and this lady thought she did a great act of charity, in giving this milk to the poor.

crimes, called her to render up the dreadful account.—The death of the Elector abated, in some degree, the rigours of the Princess's imprisonment. The Duchess, her mother, obtained permission of her husband to go sometimes to see her, and to pass the day with her.

This unfortunate Princess supported her disgrace with a fortitude which cannot be sufficiently admired. She took great delight in walking and needle-work ; she soon began to look on the affairs of this world in a different view to that in which she was accustomed ; to regard them, when sur-

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rounded

rounded with a numerous and brilliant court.—She used herself to frequent meditation ; and her long imprisonment made it at last habitual. If any thing gave her pain, it was the regret of having offended her father.—She lived several years in this situation, during which time she learnt that * Mademoiselle de Molck had escaped from her guards, and had retired to Vienna ; but at length Heaven thought proper to put her constancy to

* This lady was confined in the tower of Nieu-bourg, and had the courage to let herself down from the height of a hundred and fourscore feet, and went fourteen German leagues on foot, to get out of the Hanoverian dominions.

to a farther trial, by depriving her of that father, whose forgiveness she had so long sought in vain.

She was informed of his sickness and death at the same time.—This news afflicted her so violently, that she almost lost her reason. She was several days in a state of insensibility; but when, at intervals, she reflected he died without deigning to see her, or to forgive her, and that she had lost his friendship by her own imprudence, it is impossible to represent the horror she felt.

She remained several months in this dreadful situation, which was afterwards succeeded by a settled melancholy.

The death of the Duke of Zell made a great change in the fortune of the Duchess.—Prince George, having succeeded to the Duchy, was entirely governed by Bernstaff, who held the place of (the Count de Plate,* who died a short time before the Duke of Zell) this minister, never ceased to torment her ; and it was with the utmost difficulty she preserved the privilege of visiting her daughter.

They

* This minister was totally blind the last six years of his life.

They obliged her to quit the palace of Zell, although Prince George never occupied it ; and she was treated in the most insulting manner.

Heaven seemed willing to revenge the Duchefs and her daughter, by the death of all their enemies. Henrietta de Maifebourg dragged on a miserable existence ; her infirmities obliging her to keep her bed twenty years.

Bernstaff could not preserve his favour at Court, and died in consequence of his disappointed ambition.

The

The Electress Sophia ended her days just as she was on the point of ascending the throne of England; an event to which she had ever looked forward with the utmost solicitude.

Queen Ann dying a few months after this Princess, the fortunate Prince George was acknowledged King of Great Britain, at a time when he least expected it.—He passed over into that island, and took with him his only son, whom he had by the Princess of Zell; and this amiable lady envied not that good fortune, of which she ought to have partaken.

It

It gave her, nevertheless, a sensible pleasure to hear her son was more beloved by the English than his father.

But her satisfaction was soon clouded, by an irreparable blow, in the death of her mother, her only earthly consolation.—This stroke was severe indeed, and required all her fortitude; but long disciplined in the school of affliction, by a series of misfortunes, she had learned resignation to the will of Heaven.

This death naturally turned her thoughts on her own dissolution, which,

hastened by misery and woe, took place a short time afterwards.

Prince George heard of it.—With his natural indifference, he did not even put on mourning for her, and was offended that the King of Prussia, his son-in-law, paid that honour to her memory.

The King outlived his consort but a few months.—His dominions devolved to his son, by this illustrious lady, who ascended the throne as George the Second, and who reigned gloriously over his people, inheriting all his mother's virtues.—Like her,
he

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he was the delight of his subjects, and left an example, worthy of imitation, to succeeding Monarchs.

After a long and successful reign, his eldest son dying Prince of Wales, he was succeeded by his grandson, our present most gracious Sovereign, whose faithful subjects pray for an uninterrupted succession on the throne of these realms, to the descendants of the illustrious Heroine of these

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